

Application No. 10/772,069

REMARKS

Claims 1-43 are pending in the application, and claims 1-22 and 36-43 are withdrawn from consideration. Claims 23-35 stand rejected, claims 1, 4, 9, 12, 16, 19, 23, 26, 27, 28 and 36 are amended, and claims 3, 11, 18, 25, 30, and 38 are canceled. Support for the amendments can be found throughout the application and in the claims as filed, including the claims cancelled by this Amendment.

The withdrawal of the following rejections is noted with thanks: the provisional rejection of claims 23-35 under nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting over Application Serial No. 10/883,453; withdrawal of the rejection of claims 23-35 under nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting over U.S. Patent 7,118,840; withdrawal of the rejection of claims 23-35 under nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting over U.S. Patent 6,214,508; and the rejection of claims 23-35 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b).

Applicants' representative thanks Examiner McClendon for the courtesy shown during the telephone conversation with the Examiner on October 16, 2007. During the telephone conversation, amendment to the independent claims 23 and 28 (as well as the corresponding withdrawn claims) was discussed to include further limitation concerning the definition of Y, Y₁, and Y₂ to include limitations of claims 25 and 30, respectively, (as well as incorporation of the limitations of claim 3 into claim 1, claim 11 into claim 9, claim 18 into claim 16 and claim 38 into claim 36) but no agreement was reached at that time.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §112, Second Paragraph

The Examiner rejected claims 23-35 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. The Examiner asserted that in claims 23 and 30, it is unclear what types/kinds of linking groups Y (as well as Y₁ and Y₂ of claim 30) is intended to define.

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Solely to advance prosecution of the present application, independent claims 23 and 28 have been amended to more particularly define the linking groups Y, Y₁, and Y₂. Withdrawn claims 1, 9, 16 and 36 have been similarly amended. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 23-35 are respectfully requested.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned if the Examiner believes it would be useful to advance prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,



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